

First Named Inventor: Thomas Edward Priebe

Application No.: 10/616,786

REMARKS

Pending in the present application are claims 6-27 of which claims 6, 18, and 26 are independent. In the Office Action, claims 6, 16-18, 20, 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over either Koo (U.S. Pat. No. 5,829,278) or Japanese Patent Number 2001-12882A ("Japan '882") in view of either Taylor '318 (U.S. Pat. No. 5,797,318) or Taylor '987 (U.S. Pat. No. 5,680,987); claims 7-9, 11-15, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claims 6, 18 and 26 and further in view of Vuncannon (U.S. Pat. No. 4,717,870); and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the prior art as applied to claims 6, 18 and 26 and further in view of Chen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,668,843). With this Amendment, independent claims 6 and 18 and dependent claims 21 and 25 are amended, and dependent claim 13 is canceled. In reliance on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the present application containing claims 6-12 and 14-27 is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Amended claims 6 and 18 and claim 26 each require a user interface for inputting, e.g., a target (or desired) saturation level of the cleanroom material and a control system for controlling the amount of liquid applied to the cleanroom material as a function of, e.g., the user input and a sensed parameter related to the target (or desired) saturation level of the cleanroom material. Koo and Japan '882 disclose an apparatus for hot moistening face or hand-towels used by restaurants and barbershop patrons. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Koo and Japan '882 do not disclose, teach, or suggest a user interface or a control system. Taylor '318 discloses some measure of controlling the amount of liquid applied by adjusting speed of the transfer roll and/or adjusting the pressure between the transfer roll and the metering roll. Taylor '987 discloses controlling the amount of water mixed with air to form an air-atomized spray by adjusting a shut-off needle relative to a control orifice to meter the water flow. However, neither Taylor '318 nor Taylor '987 disclose, teach, or suggest a user interface for inputting a target (or desired) saturation level and a control system that controls the amount of liquid applied as a function of the user input, i.e., the input target (or desired) saturation level. Therefore, amended claims 6 and 18 and claim 26 are not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by Koo or Japan '882 in view of either Taylor

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'318 or Taylor '987. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 6 and are allowable therewith. Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 18 and are allowable therewith. Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and is allowable therewith.

CONCLUSION

The above amendments traverse the rejection of independent claims 6, 18 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Koo or Japan '882 in view of either Taylor '318 or Taylor '987. Neither Vuncannon nor Chen disclose, teach, or suggest what is missing from the prior art applied to independent claims 6, 18 and 26. Claims 7-9, 11, 12, 14 and 15, and claims 19 and 22-24 depend from claims 6 and 18 respectively and are therefore allowable therewith. In addition, the combinations of features recited in claims 7-12, 14-17, 19-25 and 27 are independently patentable, although this does not need to be specifically addressed herein since any claim depending from a patentable independent claim is also patentable. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (citing *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). All pending claims 6-12 and 14-27 are now in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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